

THE ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

MAY 1940

ROGER TORY PETERSON TO ADDRESS BIRD CLUB.

Our May meeting has been set back a few days until June 3rd in order that we can present a lecture by Roger Tory Peterson, noted author and bird expert of the National Association of Audubon Societies. Mr. Peterson is vacationing for three weeks in California, if you can call it "vacationing", since he's working to conclude his "Field Guide to Birds of the Western United States," and has graciously set aside one day of said very busy vacation to address us. Flying the northern airline route to California, he and Mrs. Peterson will be rerouted from Chicago and will arrive in St. Louis Monday afternoon in order to be here for his lecture which is scheduled for 8 P.M. at Mary Institute. Mr. Peterson will speak on "Birding Across the Continent", illustrated with moving pictures in color. None of you can afford to miss hearing him, the man on whom we all depend to help us when identifying a tough species, for every good birder in the region is acquainted with and carries Peterson's well-known "Field Guide to Birds". To say we're fortunate in having Mr. Peterson with us is putting it mildly; we're the only club in the country to get him for an address, unless he speaks in California. Let's show our appreciation with a one hundred percent turn-out.

WAYNE SHORT TO SPEAK ON KMOX

Our President, Wayne Short, who is regularly an announcer at KSD, will switch stations for part of a day on Saturday, May 25th for an interview on "Summer Birds of St. Louis", to be given on "The Library Hour" sponsored by the St. Louis Public Library. Tune in at 1:30 on Saturday afternoon, May 25th.

Speaking of radio, the Bird Club is greatly indebted to the Adult Education Council for devoting one of its recent regular Saturday broadcast periods on KSD to a round-table discussion of birds by members of the club, Wayne Short, Harry Comfort, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Beckmann, Mrs. H. R. Grumann, and Mr. Ralph Sunderman. Reports indicate that a good job of spreading the word was done by these stalwart members.

COMING EVENTS

Besides the Peterson lecture, you'll want to take part in the following events:

1. On the third Sunday in June the annual marsh survey will take place. The Webster Groves Nature Society and the St. Louis Bird Club will combine forces for this survey. Meet at the Boschertown School 3 miles north of St. Charles on Highway 94 at 7:00 A.M. Then proceed to Vincent's at Marais Temps Clair. Further details can be obtained from our Secretary, Anne Loftus.

2. On the fourth Sunday in June the St. Louis Bird Club has been invited to attend the monthly census of the Webster Groves Nature Society at its cabin at Ranken. This is a golden chance you won't want to miss for Ranken is as pleasant as an Ozark retreat, and the Webster Groves group as pleasant a set as you'll ever run across. Don't forget - Sunday, June 23rd, Ranken, 7 A.M.

Directions to the Lodge: Take Highway 66 to 7 mile post in speedometer test section. Just beyond post, turn left on Antire Road and go 200 yards to red gate.

IN APPRECIATION

The St. Louis Bird Club is greatly indebted to the press of St. Louis for its kind remarks during this spring season. To the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The St. Louis Globe Democrat and the St. Louis Star-Times, our sincere appreciation for each of their editorials and for their Bird Walk Comments. And to the Post-Dispatch our particular thanks for the full color page of "Birds in Forest Park" published as page one of the PICTURES section, April 21st, featuring our Bird Walks.

Also, to the radio stations of the St. Louis area, our grateful thanks for their spot announcements of our Bird Walks and the Allen lecture.

RESUME OF OUR APRIL BIRD WALKS

Our April walks this year were extremely successful. Total attendance for the four Sundays amounted to between seven and eight hundred. This year's number of species surpassed by seven last year's. Following is a list of the 81 species of birds identified in the Park during the four April Walks: pied-billed grebe, black-crowned night heron, mallard, blue winged teal, wood duck, red-head, red-shouldered hawk, sparrow hawk, bob-white, coot, killdeer, Wilson's snipe, solitary sandpiper, lesser yellow-legs, pectoral sandpiper, mourning dove, chimney swift, belted kingfisher, northern flicker, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, yellow bellied sapsucker, Eastern hairy woodpecker, Northern downy woodpecker, kingbird, crested flycatcher, phoebe, barn swallow, purple martin, bluejay, crow, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, brown creeper, house wren, mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, hermit thrush, olive-backed thrush, willow thrush, bluebird, bluegray gnat-catcher, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, starling, yellow-throated vireo, red eyed vireo, warbling vireo, black and white warbler, Tennessee warbler, parula warbler, yellow warbler, Magnolia warbler, myrtle warbler, palm warbler, Grinnell's water thrush, redstart, English sparrow, meadowlark, redwing blackbird, orchard oriole, Baltimore oriole, bronzed grackle, cowbird, summer tanager, cardinal, rose-breasted grosbeak, purple finch, goldfinch, red-eyed towhee, vesper sparrow, slate-colored junco, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow, fox sparrow, and the song sparrow.

It is with regret that we note that this year's list does not contain the Carolina Wren. The loss of most of our Carolina Wrens throughout the St. Louis region is a great one. We are not just sure what is the reason. Some of us feel that last winter's severity was the reason. Miss Ernst thinks this is a periodic loss seemingly characteristic of the Carolina race. But whatever the reason, we're genuinely sorry and hopeful for a quick rebuilding of numbers.

To the following people our deep thanks for making our Bird Walks the success that they were by their capable leadership:

Dave Hill, Margaret Hill, Ludlow Hill, Bob Hill, John Wanamaker and his assistants, who made two long early morning trips from the Principia, Lois Karr, Lindenwood College, St. Charles, Oliver Imos, Marshall Wagner, Mr. Dougan, Mr. Jones and members of the Ben Blewett Bird Club, Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Zemple, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Beckmann, A. C. Berkowitz, Mrs. Klinkerfuss, Harry Comfort, Bob Hecht, Mr. Fischer, Miss Hanna, Anne Loftis, A. V. DeVilbiss, Miss Hermann, Bill Holzmark, Wayne Short, and others.

HUMMING BIRD QUERY

Information is desired as to whether any of our members have had an experience similar to that related by Mrs. H. R. Grummann during our recent radio broadcast over Station KSD on Saturday, April 27th. One morning last August, during a prolonged spell of dry weather, a ruby-throated humming bird, which had for some time paid early morning visits to Mrs. Grummann's garden seeking the blossoms of an Althea (Rose of Sharon) shrub, surprised Mrs. Grummann by dipping into a fine, mist-like spray which she was directing upon a Pfitzer juniper. The bird first stuck his tiny bill into the dripping tip of the juniper, then unexpectedly flew sidewise into the spray, and hovered in it for a few seconds. He then left the spray but flew back into it again twice before he seemed satisfied with his shower-bath, and lit on a fence nearby to shake the water from his feathers. Although this particular humming-bird visited Mrs. Grummann's garden on many succeeding mornings, he did not again appear to be interested in taking a bath in this manner.

SUBURBAN OBSERVATIONS

My brother, James E. Comfort, told me on April 18th, that he had just come from the Glendale area where he had been observing for thirty minutes at close range the Yellow-Crowned Night Heron. I made this section both Saturday and Sunday in hopes of finding this unusual visitor but had no luck.

On Friday, April 26, after I had just reached home from work, James drove up and said, "Do you want the Yellow-Crowned Night Heron?"

Did I want the Yellow-Crowned Night Heron???? We jumped in the car and got there just in time to have a grand view of it, with the sun setting and showing off its yellow crown and plumes to advantage. This species does not have the black and white contrast of the Black-Crowned Night Heron, for its head, with the exception of the crown, is black and its breast less white.

I have noticed the scarcity of the Carolina Wren this spring and it is my opinion that they died from cold or starvation last winter. There are none either in the Glendale area or at the Ranken Lodge, where formerly there were several on every route. I hate to see this as we miss its clear whistle and song.

The Starlings have robbed of their nesting places two pairs of Red-Headed Woodpeckers and one pair of Flickers. This happened in one large cotton-wood tree near our home. If this condition is general, the harm that will result to our Martins and Woodpeckers can scarcely be estimated.

Harry Comfort

A BIRD RESCUE

Miss Clara M. Helsing, Special Nature Study Teacher, Missouri Botanical Gardens, reports the following incident, which contains a bit of valuable advice.

On the morning of April 8th, Mrs. Brady of Shenandoah Ave., saw a bird fluttering frantically in the top of a tall sycamore tree across the street. The string it carried had caught on a twig and tripped the bird, holding one leg fast.

She enlisted the aid of a driver of a truck on which was a short ladder

At the risk of his life, Mr. Thomas Kissil, 6715 Vermont Ave., rescued the pretty blue jay, bringing it down safely in his shirt. The bird's leg seemed to be hurt but not broken and after he removed the tight string, the blue jay was able to fly into the low branches of a tree nearby.

If people will take the time to break strings seen outdoors into short lengths birds will be able to carry them safely to their nesting sites.

NATURE GUIDE SERVICE AT MERAMEC STATE PARK

The appointment of George E. Moore of Lebanon as Chief Naturalist of State Parks is one that will be of interest to members of bird clubs throughout the state. Mr. Moore, the secretary of the State Audubon Society of Missouri, has long been active in conservation work and has been familiar to many of us through his articles in the monthly bulletin.

With his home and headquarters in Meramec State Park near Sullivan, Mr. Moore is put in easy reach of St. Louisians who drive to the park for a day or a week-end. Nature trails are being marked, a program of walks with Mr. and Mrs. Moore as nature guides is being started and a thoroughly delightful time is in store for all who want to become better acquainted with one of the near-by state parks.

The state maintains excellent cottages (the de luxe kind that boast of such luxuries as indoor showers with hot running water) for over-night guests.

ALLEN LECTURE

Between seven and eight hundred awed bird enthusiasts watched and listened at Soldan High School last April 18th as Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell University presented a lecture long to be remembered. His color pictures, bird recordings, and his own pleasant personality made the evening a happy one. The bird club is greatly indebted to the St. Louis District of the Missouri State Teacher's Association for the financial assistance that made this lecture possible.

ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Officers	
President.....	Wayne Short 1207 N. 7th St.
Vice-President.....	Henry M. Kennon St. Louis Zoo
Secretary.....	Anne Loftus 5774 DeGiverville
Treasurer.....	Nelle Lee Jenkinso 4997 Pershing Ave.
Editor.....	Marvin Beckmann 3665 Roswell
(Subscription - One dollar per year - Free to members.)	

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to announce the following new members who have joined us since the beginning of the year. May they enjoy our fellowship as much as we are sure we'll enjoy theirs.

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| 1. Miss Anna Beck
4611 Alaska Ave | 16. Miss Marie Loth
2708 Baldwin |
| 2. Miss Maude L. Batler
6637 Kingsbury | 17. Tommy Moore
20 Wydown Terrace |
| 3. Miss Lois Bolinger
5707 McPherson | 18. Paul S. Neuhoff
6546 Itaska |
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4221 Lee Ave | 21. Preston Iwick
611 Buder Bldg |

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|----|---|----|--|
| 7 | Miss Adrienne Delbridge
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6724 Clayton |
| 8 | R Fairfax Funsten Jr
19 Wydown | 23 | F G Schrantz
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2141 East College | 25 | Ralph Sunderman
6710 Lyonhurst |
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3700 Hoffmeister | 26 | Miss John C Talbot
R 1 Creve Coeur |
| 12 | Miss Lois Karr
Lindenwood College | 27 | Mrs Elmer Yeckel
6543 Walsh |
| 13 | Dr C H Kilker
7231 Winchester Drive | 28 | R H Heckt
8844 W Lawn Brentwood |
| 14 | Irven Ladi
221 President | 29 | Miss Flora Hartwig
5025 Tennessee |
| 15 | Jerry W Goodman
6310 Northwood | 30 | Mrs Marvin Beckmann
3665 Roswell |

Members who have not paid their dues for this year will find a bill enclosed with this issue of the bulletin. If you find no bill with your bulletin you are to assume your membership is paid up for the year. Invite your friends to join. One dollar and an interest in birds entitles them to a year's membership. We need a larger membership.

BIRDS OF THE MONTH

Probably you have noticed already by the title - instead of "Bird of the Month" we are forced this time to say "Birds of the Month", for although April generally failed us miserably - presenting one of the sickliest exhibitions of spring birding we have experienced - that there were two finds so outstanding and so equally splendid we're, much against our will, declaring a tie.

Club photographer, Bill Holzmark, of Glossy Ibis fame, has turned up with another gem this year. Although we hate to tell this part of the story on him on Monday, April 1st, he discovered a duck he could not identify (blamed his failure on the sunlight). Then on Saturday, April 6th, he tried again, and this time, to his credit, discovered that said duck was a Cinnamon Teal. The find is remarkable for three reasons: First, the bird is accidental in this region; Second, this Teal was found within one-half mile of the spot last year's Cinnamon spent several days; Third, it was later discovered by Mr. Comfort that this year our Teal was not only back (if, of course, it was the same bird) but he had brought with him a second. Needless to say, the word spread like to proverbial wild fire. The next day Miss Ernst saw one and the Comforts two, on Tuesday Wayne Short succeeded, and on April 8 Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Beckmann got in on the find. Others came and marvelled too.

Our other No. 1 "Bird of the Month" was found by our very good friend and capable observer, Lois Karr, instructor of Mathematics at Lindenwood College, who along with Margaret Dyer of St. Charles practically stole every observing laurel away from the membership for the month by doing some fancy calculations that resulted in the equation - *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* - yellow-headed black birds to you. Actually based as a find alone, the yellow-headed black bird is better than the cinnamon teal, for this is the first time in decades that this species has been brought to attention in this vicinity. Widmann considered it a "rare straggler" in Eastern Missouri, though, as in the case of many of our rare species, Western Missouri boasts it in some numbers.

Hats off to Holzmark, Karr and Dyer - April's Big Three!

Other good observations for the month the Comforts (Glendale) The Yellow Crowned Night Heron and a Hooded Warbler reported by Miss Olive Parker in Shaw's Garden on April 6th Jim Comfort found the coveted Sycamore Warbler and a half dozen were located at The Principia during the month

Early May saw the return of the Egret Wayne Short observing the first on May 3rd As far as is known this is the earliest return record of the Egret for Missouri On the same date Wayne Short had one flock of 46 long billed Dowitchers also in St Charles County Miss Ernst had the Virginia Rail at Horse Shoe Lake And of course May brought the census winning Red Breasted Nut Hatch on Scanlon Avenue (the Hills)

ANNUAL SPRING CENSUS

Our Spring Census was the most successful in years One hundred people stalked St Louis St Charles and St Clair counties for birds and so well was the job done that what is perhaps the largest list ever recorded on a Spring Census resulted Following is a list of the 135 species found: pied billed grebe 1 double crested cormorant 4 great blue heron 4 little blue heron 1 green heron 3 black crowned night heron 25 bittern 8 least bittern 1 Canada goose 1 mallard 8 black duck 1 pintail 1 green winged teal 1 blue winged teal 40 shoveller 6 wood duck 1 lesser scaup 45 turkey vulture 2 Cooper's hawk 1 red tailed hawk 1 red shouldered hawk 1 marsh hawk 1 osprey 1 sparrow hawk 2 bob white 1 ring necked pheasant 7 king rail 2 sora rail 3 coot 150 semi palmed plover 2 killdeer 8 wood cock 1 Wilson's snipe 2 spotted sandpiper 4 solitary sandpiper 2 greater yellow legs 3 lesser yellow legs 40 pectoral sandpiper 35 least sandpiper 1 Forster's tern 1 mourning dove 30 yellow billed cuckoo 3 whip poor will 1 night hawk 1 chimney swift 100 ruby throated hummingbird 1 belted kingfisher 2 flicker 3 red bellied woodpecker 4 red headed woodpecker 11 hairy woodpecker 1 downy woodpecker 7 kingbird 16 crested flycatcher 11 phoebe 4 least flycatcher 1 wood pewee 2 prairie horned lark 3 tree swallow 12 bank swallow 11 rough winged swallow 7 barn swallow 10 purple martin 10 bluejay 24 crow 25 black capped chickadee 7 Carolina chickadee 5 tufted titmouse 8 white breasted nuthatch 1 red breasted nuthatch 1 house wren 6 Bewick's wren 1 Carolina wren 1 mockingbird 4 catbird 5 brown thrasher 20 robin 15 wood thrush 18 hermit thrush 1 olive backed thrush 25 gray cheeked thrush 3 willow thrush 3 bluebird 3 blue gray gnat catcher 4 ruby crowned kinglet 7 migrant shrike 10 starling 15 white eyed vireo 1 yellow throated vireo 2 warbling vireo 5 warblers, black and white 3 prothonotary 9 worm eating 2 blue winged 5 tennessee 14 nashville 9 yellow 10 magnolia 1 myrtle 11 blackburnian 1 black poll 1 pine 2 prairie 1 palm 18 ovenbird 12 blue headed vireo 1 red eyed vireo 16 philadelphia vireo 2 Louisiana water thrush 8 Kentucky warbler 4 Northern yellow throat 11 yellow breasted chat 2 redstart 8 English sparrow 50 European tree sparrow 3 meadowlark 17 redwinged black bird 200 orchard oriole 8 Baltimore oriole 22 bronzed grackle 500 cow bird 11 scarlet tanager 2 summer tanager 1 cardinal 25 rose breasted grosbeak 10 indigo bunting 17 dickcissel 15 goldfinch 35 red eyed towhee 17 chipping sparrow 9 field sparrow 8 white crowned sparrow 40 white throated sparrow 39 fox sparrow 1 and the song sparrow 7

FINIS

So endeth bird club publications until Fall

Our next meeting (after the Peterson Lecture) is scheduled for October But don't forget attend the Peterson lecture June 3rd and our Marsh Survey, June 16th and the Ranken hike June 23rd.